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MASTER & APPRENTICE PREMIERE IN PARIS FINALE

Rafael Nadal will become the oldest man to win the title if he defeats Casper Ruud in French Open final

THE NADAL TOUCH

The two haven't faced each other in a competitive match. Ruud has trained at Rafael Nadal academy in Mallorca. And Nadal has personally helped to foster Ruud's clay court talents | Live from 6:30pm

14TH AND THE FIRST

Nadal will be playing his 14th Roland Garros final and 30th overall at the Grand Slams, while his protege would be playing his first major final. Nadal was 19 when he won first French title

SWIATEK-DREAM: THE FRENCH KISS

- Iga Swiatek wins her second French Open title by dominating teenager Coco Gauff 6-1, 6-3 in the final on Saturday
- She equalled Venus Williams' record for the longest winning run of 35 by a woman in the 21st century
- Her 2nd Slam triumph was her 6th successive title this year | P13

$2.35 mn

PRIZE MONEY FOR THE WINNER, WHILE GAUF WILL GET $1.17 MILLION

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VHP-Bajrang Dal bid to do puja at mosque

K'taka police stop activists who claim the Jamia Masjid in Srirangapatna was built over a Hanuman temple

Police prevent VHP and Bajrang Dal activists from performing puja near the west gate of Jamia Masjid in Srirangapatna on Saturday | UDAYASHANKAR S

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Srirangapatna

IN THE backdrop of claims that a Shivling was found at Gyanvapi Mosque, hundreds of VHP and Bajrang Dal activists from across Mandya district in Karnataka laid siege to the fort town of Srirangapatna, around 125 km from Bengaluru, on Saturday, demanding that they be allowed to offer pujas at the Mula Anjaneyaswamy temple, which they claimed is situated near the west gate of Jamia Masjid.

The protest in Tipu Sultan's capital also came when a controversy is raging over secular credentials of the Muslim ruler. The protesters said that the 18th century ruler razed a Hanuman temple situated at the spot and built Jamia Masjid.

On Saturday, the activists were stopped from heading towards the masjid as Deputy Commissioner Ashwathi clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The police beefed up security and barricaded all the roads leading to the mosque, which is being maintained by the Archeological Survey of India. The protesting activists claimed that two of their workers managed to break through the security cordon and chant Hanuman Chalisa at the temple inside Jamia Masjid.

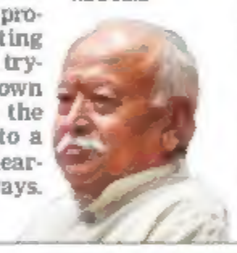
The Bajrang Dal had given a call for Srirangapatana Chalo and when they were stopped, they blocked the busy Bengaluru-Mysuru and Mysuru-Pandavapura highways, demanding that they be allowed to proceed towards the mosque.

Mandya Superintendent of Police P Yatish warned the protesters that anyone violating the prohibitory orders and trying to enter the historic town would be arrested. Later, the protesters were moved to a nearby town Kirangur, clearing the traffic on the highways.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Outfits ignore Bhagwat's call?

Hindu outfits' campaign to claim the Srirangapatna Jamia Masjid comes amid the call by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to refrain from such actions. Speaking at an event last Thursday, Bhagwat had questioned the need to "look for a Shivalinga in every mosque", referring to the Gyanvapi controversy. "One shouldn't raise a new issue every day. Why escalate fights? What happens in mosques is also a form of prayer... We are not opposed to any form of worship," he had said



I reject the Opposition's demand for removing RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar's lesson from the textbooks. There is nothing wrong in retaining it

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

The state government will neither stop printing of revised textbooks nor re-print them. We will ensure that there will be no delays in textbook distribution and that school education will not be affected

B C Nagesh, Primary and Secondary Education Minister

Minister rules out re-print of textbooks

SHILPA P @ Bengaluru

A DAY after Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said his government was open to re-revising textbooks, Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh has clarified that they would neither stop printing of revised textbooks nor re-print them. He assured there would be no delays in textbooks distribution, and that school education would not be affected because of any re-revision.

Minister Nagesh told *The New Indian Express* on Saturday that following the Friday evening discussions with the Chief Minister post submission of the report on textbooks revision, they decided not to reprint the textbooks.

As only the content on 12th century social reformer Basavanna in class 9 social science textbooks is being considered for re-revision, the textbooks will not be reprinted. When they revise the content, only a separate small booklet of that revised content on Basavanna will be printed and distributed to schools along with the textbooks, Nagesh said.

As of Friday night, 79.70 per cent of the textbooks were printed and 66.98 per cent were distributed to the schools. According to sources in the education department, the printing and distribution process is scheduled to be completed within a fortnight. Reprinting them with the latest re-revision would mean stopping the ongoing printing and affecting the schools.

As the Rohith Chakratirtha-headed Textbooks Revision Committee has been dissolved, Nagesh iterated that no new committee would be constituted to oversee the re-revision of content on Basavanna. Instead, the state government plans to consult a few experts, he said, although refraining from divulging the names of the experts.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Govt orders 'rape culture' perfume ad be taken down

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A DAY after the Delhi Commission for Women flagged advertisement videos of perfume brand 'Shot' for promoting rape culture, the Centre on Saturday directed Twitter and YouTube to take them down at once.

"It has come to the notice of the ministry that an inappropriate and derogatory advertisement of a deodorant is circulating on social media. So, it has asked Twitter and YouTube to immediately pull it down," said an official of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

In letters to Twitter and YouTube, the ministry said the videos were "detrimental to the portrayal of women in the interest of decency and morality" and in violation of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021.

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), a self-regulatory body of advertisement professionals, said it "was potentially in serious violation" of its code.

While the videos have drawn criticism from many quarters for encouraging violence against women, the strongest reaction was from the Delhi Commission for Women. "Fuming at cringe worthy ads of the perfume 'Shot'. They show toxic masculinity in its worst form and clearly promote gangrape culture! The company owners must be held accountable. Have issued notice to Delhi Police and written letter to I&B Minister seeking FIR and strong action," its chairperson Swati Maliwal tweeted.

TWO MINORS ARRESTED OVER GANGRAPE OF T'GANA TEEN

Hyderabad police on Saturday apprehended two minors, including the son of a Telangana Wakf Board official, in connection with the gangrape of a 17-year-old girl inside a car after a pub party | P5

2 CASES OF NOSE-BLEED FEVER

A 55-year-old woman has died from the deadly nose-bleed fever in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district. So far, two cases have been reported in India—both in Bhavnagar. The disease has killed at least 18 in Iraq | P9

DOWRY'S CRUEL FACE

A 33-year-old woman from Chandra Layout in Bengaluru was allegedly pushed into Cauvery river near Mekedatu falls at Sangama by her husband as she could not meet his dowry demands. Only the lower part of the victim's body has been found from the waters which are said to be infested with crocodiles. The victim's brother has filed a complaint | P3

WITH THIS ISSUE

LARGER THAN LIFE PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

VACCINE-O-METER TAKE YOUR SHOT

TOTAL: 194,07,80,338

	June 3	June 4
June 3	9,94,843 doses	
June 4		10,28,295 doses

KARNATAKA	June 3	June 4
Fresh cases	4,041	3,962
Recoveries	2,363	2,697
Deaths	10	35

KARNATAKA	June 3	June 4
Fresh cases	259	222
Recoveries	234	191
Deaths	0	0

Crisis-hit state agriculture department working with only 44 per cent staffers

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

WITH the onset of monsoon in Karnataka, farmers might be rejoicing as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted good rain for this year. But what may come as a shock to many is the serious crisis being faced by the State Agriculture Department.

The department is facing an acute staff shortage with less than 50 per cent employees working. This has negatively impacted the functioning of the department and the affected parties are mostly the beneficiaries and farmers who haven't received benefits.

The sanctioned staff strength of the department from different cadres is 9,007 posts, of which only 4,020 posts have been filled. This means there are only 44 per cent of staffers working in the department. Of them, Group B and Group C play important roles and most of the vacant posts are from these two cadres.

In Group B cadre, of the 4,091 sanctioned posts, only 1,781 are filled. The State government's move to recruit 300 people is hardly making a difference as it is way less than the actual required strength. In Karnataka, there are close to 750 Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSK), with at least one each at Hobli level. Each RSK should have an assistant agriculture officer and agriculture assistant who are crucial in reaching out to the end beneficiary in villages.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in his maiden budget speech had announced allotment of ₹33,700 crore for agriculture and allied sectors with an aim to increase incomes of farmers. He had also announced Raitha Shakti scheme by allotting Rs 500 crore to encourage the use of farm machinery.

CONTINUED ON: P5

THE SHORTFALL

CADRE	SANCTIONED	WORKING
Group A	652	519
Group B	4,091	1,781
Group C	2,752	1,238
Group D	1,512	482
TOTAL	9,007	4,020

EXPRESS READ

12 workers killed, 21 injured in factory blast in Uttar Pradesh

Hapur: At least 12 workers died and 21 were injured when a boiler exploded at a factory in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district on Saturday afternoon, officials said. It took three hours for fire tenders to douse the blaze. "The factory was given the licence to manufacture electronic items. Now, it is a matter of probe what exactly was going on there," District Magistrate of Hapur Medha Roopam said. Roofs of other factories nearby were damaged due to the impact of the blast.

BJP candidate list for June 23 by-elections released

New Delhi: The BJP on Saturday announced its candidates for the June 23 bypoll to two parliamentary seats in Uttar Pradesh and seven assembly constituencies in four states. The party will field Bhojpuri singer Dinesh Lal Yadav 'Nirahua' in Azamgarh Lok Sabha constituency and Ghanshyam Lodhi in Rampur Lok Sabha seat. Manik Saha, who was recently appointed as Tripura CM, will contest from the state's Town Bordowali assembly constituency | P9

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Save frogs to save yourself from diseases

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

EVER wondered what role amphibians play in human lives? They keep the insect population under control, which in turn ensures that human beings do not contract diseases, especially the ones that originate from agricultural produce.

But this World Environment Day, experts have a word of caution. The population of frogs is on the decline and sadly there is not much data available to show the immediate direct impact.

Zoologists, herpetologists, taxonomists, experts and researchers from Karnataka and Maharashtra have undertaken a study to assess the impact of climate change on amphibians. Over the last two to three years, the erratic change in monsoon pattern has brought to light the negative effects on the breeding and reproduction cycles of frogs.

Noted frog expert K V Gururaja says that due to cyclones like Tauktae, Asani and other pre-monsoon showers, the egg-laying cycle of frogs advances, leading to change in the croaking cycle of the amphibian. Moreover, when sunny days increase during monsoon period, the eggs dry up fast. These changes have been observed among Common Toads and Malabar Tree Toad so far.

Prof Narahari Gramapurohit, Department of Zoology, Pune University, told The New Indian Express, "Unlike in other countries, there is little or no study available in India on the impact of climate change on frogs. Change in rainy season affects breeding among frogs as toads need water base. For the regular monsoon period (June-September), frogs get ready for reproduction from April." P2

Frogs feed on insects that live on agricultural crops. So, if insects are killed by the use of harsh chemicals which is having an impact on the gender of frogs, an urgent need arises to see the impact on human beings. Frog hormonal system is 99 per cent similar to humans

Dr Samadhan Krushna Phuge, Savitribai Phule Pune University